

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 02286 220925Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 046113

R 220516Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3156

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2286

EXDIS

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR ISA FROM AMB UNDERHILL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER MILI

SUBJ: OFFICER ON SABBATICAL LEAVE IN KUALA LUMPUR

REF: SECDEF 4560

1. I FIND TWO BASIC PROBLEMS IN THE ASSIGNMENT YOU PROPOSE FOR COLONEL OSBORN AT THE EMBASSY. THE FIRST IS INTERNAL. THIS IS A SMALL MISSION, AND IS GETTING SMALLER IN THE AREAS MOST RELEVANT TO HIS INTERESTS. IT WOULD BE A STRAIN ON OUR RESOURCES, SUBSTANTIVE EVEN MORE THAN ADMINISTRATIVE, TO CONTRIBUTE TO A WORTHWHILE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR HIM. COL. OSBORN IS OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY QUALIFIED, BUT WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO USE HIS TALENTS EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS OF HIS STATUS, WHICH LEADS TO THE SECOND, EXTERNAL, PROBLEM. COL. OSBORN'S POSITION IN THE EMBASSY OUTSIDE THE FORMAL ATTACHE STRUCTURE WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD, AND WOULD BE AN OBSTACLE TO HIM IN HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY. IT COULD HANDICAP HIM IN PURSUING THE KINDS OF PROJECTS MOST SUITED TO HIS TALENTS AND OF POSSIBLE USE TO THE MISSION.

2. THERE IS A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT WHICH I THINK  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 02286 220925Z

WOULD MEET COL. OSBORN'S NEEDS AND AT THE SAME TIME

OVERCOME TO A MAJOR DEGREE THE PROBLEMS CITED ABOVE.  
WE COULD OFFER COL. OSBORN AS A VISITING PROFESSOR/  
LECTURER AT THE MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE.  
THIS HIGHLY REGARDED INSTITUTION HAS OFFICERS FROM  
INDONESIA, THAILAND, THE PHILIPPINES, AUSTRALIA  
AND NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTING ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THE STUDENT  
BODY. THERE ARE NOW, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO FOREIGN  
OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE FACULTY, BUT COMMONWEALTH  
OFFICERS HAVE SERVED AT THE COLLEGE IN PREVIOUS  
YEARS. COL. OSBORN'S EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS AND THE  
FACT THAT HE WOULD JOIN THE FACULTY WITHOUT COST TO  
THE GOM WOULD SEEM A STRONG INCENTIVE FOR ACCEPTANCE.  
HE WOULD HAVE AT THE COLLEGE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR  
INFORMAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE BEST ELEMENTS OF THE  
MALAYSIAN MILITARY, AND OUTSIDE THE COLLEGE A STATUS  
THAT WOULD FACILITATE RATHER THAN HANDICAP CONTACTS.

3. FINALLY, WE KNOW THAT THE GOM IS RESISTING PRESSURE  
FROM THE RUSSIANS AND CHINESE TO INCREASE THEIR EMBASSY  
STAFFS. (WE ARE BY FAR THE LARGEST EMBASSY IN KL,  
30 PERCENT BIGGER THAN INDONESIA, THE NEXT LARGEST.) OPPO-  
SITION TO COL. OSBORN'S ASSIGNMENT TO THE EMBASSY  
CAN BE EXPECTED FROM ELEMENTS IN BOTH FOREIGN AND  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRIES ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT  
WOULD WEAKEN THE GOM POSITION WITH THE USSR AND  
PRC. DEFENSE MINISTRY SUPPORT FOR AN ASSIGNMENT  
TO THE STAFF COLLEGE COULD OVERCOME THESE OBJECTIONS.

4. DO YOU WISH US TO EXPLORE THIS ALTERNATIVE?  
UNDERHILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ATTACHES, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** vogelfj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KUALA02286  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760152-0825  
**From:** KUALA LUMPUR  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760435/aaaabcwj.tel  
**Line Count:** 91  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OFFICER ON SABBATICAL LEAVE IN KUALA LUMPUR  
**TAGS:** APER, MILI, MY, (OSBORN)  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006